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18. A method for transmitting data from a mobile station to a base station in a communication system, comprising the steps of:

transmitting data from the mobile station to the base station in a burst, wherein said burst can be in one of a plurality of different formats; 5
receiving said burst at said base station;
decoding the data contained in said burst according to a plurality of burst formats; and 10
selecting one of the plurality of differently decoded versions of said bursts by determining which decoded data has a correct cyclic redundancy check.

19. A method according to claim **18**, wherein said different formats include a first burst format and a second burst format. 15

20. The method of claim **19**, wherein said first burst format includes at least one first data field having a first number of bits and said second burst format includes at least one second data field having a second number of bits greater than said first number of bits. 20

21. The method of claim **20**, wherein said at least one first data field comprises two first data fields, said first number of bits is 244 bits, said at least one second data field comprises two second data fields and said second number of bits is 296 bits. 25

22. A base station comprising:

means for receiving a burst of data formatted according to one of a plurality of different formats, a first format

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having at least one data field having 244 bits and a second format having at least one data field having 296 bits;

means for determining a format of said received burst of data by detecting a presence or absence of at least one predetermined physical field in said received burst of data; and

means for decoding said received burst of data using said determined format.

23. A base station comprising:

means for receiving a burst of data formatted according to one of a plurality of different formats;

means for decoding said received burst using each of said plurality of different formats; and

means for selecting one of said decoded versions of said received burst that has a correct cyclic redundancy check.

24. The base station of claim **23**, wherein said different formats include a first burst format and a second burst format.

25. The base station of claim **23**, wherein said first burst format includes at least one first data field having a first number of bits and said second burst format includes at least one second data field having a second number of bits greater than said first number of bits.

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